January 25

Psalms 80:3,18,19

"Turn Us Again & Shine"

3 Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved. 18 So will not we go back from thee: quicken us, and we will call upon thy name. 19 Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

It's really good to read all 19 verses of this chapter, but these three get right to the point. This is a prayer of one who sought God's forgiveness and restoration. It can be a united prayer guide during difficult times:

LORD, please turn us back to where we should be—back to where we loved, revered, and worshipped you from pure hearts. If you would do that, we would be saved from this mess

and we won't keep going backward. Enlighten us and we'll put our trust in you. Oh LORD, bring us back into your favor and delight.

Shine and we will be saved.

This does not address eternal salvation, but rather speaks of the need to be saved from specific troubles.

Picture, for example, a man trying to talk to a woman who is deeply engaged in reading a book. The man calls the woman's name and begins talking, but the woman merely says, "um huh", while continuing to read. Her face never moves from the pages. The man more aggressively tries to get the woman to show interest. He wants her to look at him—to actually face him.

That's similar to the way it was in this Psalms account. The prayer was a seeking of God's "face"—God's full attention. The request for God's "face to shine" is, not only the need for attention, but also for light in place of darkness; for restoration and deliverance.

What are ways we, today, may need God to turn us again and shine?